

Serial No.: 10/773,967
Response to Office Action of 06/20/2006
Art Unit 2834
VAL 183 P2

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on June 20, 2006.

Support for the amendments is found in the Specification at the following locations, and others: Detailed Description of the Invention, first four paragraphs, and the discussion throughout stating that no slot contains more than one coil.

Claim 15 was cancelled because the PTO, in essence, treats the term "mounting" of claim 14 as synonymous with "insertion" of claim 15.

Amendment to claim 6 has removed the basis for the 112 - objection.

Discussion of Amendments

The amendments to the claims state that a particular type of motor is used in a steering assist (or "power steering") system in a vehicle. If an ordinary electric motor were used, which has more than one coil in a slot, a coil-to-coil short can occur, causing vibration and increased steering effort, as the Specification explains in the Detailed Description of the Invention, first four paragraphs.

The invention prevents these shorts from occurring, or at least reduces their likelihood. Thus, the invention reduces the vibration and increase in steering effort which result if the shorts occur.

Applicants fail to see in the applied art a discussion of these two problems (vibration and increase in steering effort), resulting from the coil-to-coil shorts in a steering system. Consequently, Applicants submit that no suggestion exists in favor of using a type of motor in a steering system which reduces these problems.

From another point of view, it is axiomatic that if a person discovers a problem,

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the person is entitled to obtain a patent on a solution to the problem, even if the solution is obvious, given the problem. The reasoning is that the problem is not shown in the prior art (the person discovered it), so that the solution cannot be obvious in view of the prior art. See, e.g., MPEP § 2141.02, section headed "DISCOVERING SOURCE/CAUSE OF A PROBLEM IS PART OF "AS A WHOLE" INQUIRY."

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants have discovered the problem of vibration/increased steering effort, and under this principle, have claimed in the amended claims the solution. As amended, the claims focus on a solution that uses a particular type of electric motor in a steering system.

From yet another point of view, several of the cited references discuss electric motors in steering assist systems. However, the use of Applicants' motor, as now claimed, in a steering assist system does not amount to substitution of a known equivalent because Applicants' motor possesses different properties, as explained above. These properties solve, or mitigate, problems which Applicants have discovered.

For all the forgoing reasons and in view of the claims as now presented, Applicants believe these claims are now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a request for a three-month extension of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1287. Applicants hereby provide a general request for any extension of time which may be required at any time during the

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prosecution of the application. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any fees which have not been previously paid for by check and which are required during the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 50-1287. (Should Deposit Account No. 50-1287 be deficient, please charge any further deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 10-0220).

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned via telephone with any questions or comments regarding this case.

Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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